



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

OPNAVINST 3140.55A  
N61  
30 January 2004

#### OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3140.55A

From: Chief of Naval Operations  
To: All Ships and Stations

Subj: OCEANOGRAPHIC, HYDROGRAPHIC, AND BATHYMETRIC SURVEY REQUIREMENTS

Ref: (a) CJCSI 3170.01C (NOTAL)  
(b) CJCSI 3901.01A  
(c) SECNAVINST 5430.79B (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Oceanographic, Hydrographic, and Bathymetric Definitions

1. Purpose. To establish responsibilities and procedures for the submission, prioritization, and validation of oceanographic, hydrographic, and bathymetric (OHB) survey requirements, implementing the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) policies contained in references (a) and (b).

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3140.55, reference (c). This replacement instruction has been completely rewritten and should be read in its entirety.

3. Background. Chief of Naval Operations (CNO(N61)) is the Oceanographer of the Navy and serves as the resource and requirements sponsor for Oceanographic, Hydrographic, and Bathymetric (OHB) survey operations conducted by the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO), under the operational direction of the Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (COMNAVMETOPCOM).

4. Scope. The policy and procedures set forth in this directive are applicable to all naval activities, and to commands and activities that submit OHB survey requirements to the U.S. Navy.

5. Definitions. See enclosure (1).

6. Policy. Per reference (c), The Oceanographer/Navigator of the Navy is responsible within the Department of the Navy for all oceanography and meteorology matters. By direction of the Secretary of Defense, Navy is responsible for providing oceanographic services, as set forth in existing inter-service agreements, for all elements of the Department of Defense.

#### 7. Procedures

a. All survey requirements will be submitted via record correspondence to Commanding Officer, Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO), with copies to COMNAVMETOPCOM, Commander Fleet Forces Command (COMFLTFORCOM) and CNO (N61). Activities submitting survey requirements shall designate them as either critical or important, as defined in enclosure (1).

b. NAVOCEANO will:

(1) Maintain the survey requirements database, compiled quarterly to display projected survey activity for the next 2 years.

(2) Submit a semi-annual summary of survey requirements, to include completion status of existing validated requirements, for review, prioritization and validation by COMNAVMETOCCOM, COMFLTFORCOM and CNO (N61), respectively.

c. COMNAVMETOCCOM will:

(1) Review survey requirements for feasibility based on available data holdings and capability.

(2) Submit the requirements to COMFLTFORCOM for initial prioritization.

d. COMFLTFORCOM will:

(1) Prioritize survey requirements, giving primary consideration to:

(a) Operation and contingency plan support with focus on the littorals

(b) Safety and integrity of port operations, including ingress and egress

(c) Assured access and navigation safety in strategic waterways

(d) Combating terrorism.

(2) Forward the prioritized requirements semi-annually to CNO (N61) via message.

(3) Develop and issue fleet survey ship schedules to optimize completion of validated requirements.

e. CNO (N61) will:

(1) Convene a Survey Requirements Validation Board semi-annually to match resources with requirements, ensure alignment with strategic guidance, and adjudicate competing theater requirements. Membership of this board shall include representatives from the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans, Policy, and Operations) (CNO(N3/N5)), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and JCS.

(2) Execute oversight of the survey program to match resources with requirements and ensure proper leveraging of international and interagency support.

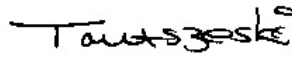
(3) Forward the validated survey requirements to CJCS for approval/disapproval, and notify submitting commands or agencies as appropriate.

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8. Emergent Requirements. Emergent survey requirements of a critical nature may be approved via message by COMNAVMETOCCOM, with copies to COMFLTFORCOM and CNO (N61).

9. Requests for Technical Assistance. Commands or activities requiring technical guidance or consulting services concerning OHB survey matters should contact NAVOCEANO, using an appropriate communication channel for the subject and material to be discussed. The Calendar Year (CY) ship survey schedule, approved by CJCS as a deployment order, in effect when this instruction is published, will be followed to expedite completion of existing requirements, until the new procedures can be fully implemented.

10. Reports. The reports contained in this instruction are exempt from SECNAVINST 5214.2B.



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By Direction

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## OCEANOGRAPHIC, HYDROGRAPHIC, AND BATHYMETRIC DEFINITIONS

1. Marine Data Collection. Marine Data Collection is a general term used when referring to all types of survey or marine scientific activity, i.e., military surveys, hydrographic surveys, and marine scientific research.
2. Military Survey. Military Survey refers to activities undertaken in the ocean and coastal (littoral) waters involving marine data collection (whether or not classified) for military purposes. Military surveys can include oceanographic, hydrographic, bathymetric, marine geological, geophysical, chemical, biological, acoustic, non-acoustic, and related data.
3. Marine Scientific Research. Marine Scientific Research refers to activities undertaken in accordance with part XIII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the ocean and coastal waters whose purpose is to expand general scientific knowledge of the marine environment. The results of marine scientific research are generally made publicly available.
4. Oceanography. Study of the ocean surface, water column, and bottom features including the propagation of acoustic, optical, and other forms of energy.
5. Hydrography. Depiction of shallow water bottom features, coastline, beach, tides, and surf characterization.
6. Bathymetry. Measurement of water depths and bottom contour lines with precise geographic locations.
7. Geospatial, Information and Services (GI&S) Requirement. A requirement for a GI&S product or service identified by a user to support planning, testing, or operational deployment of weapon systems, stated in terms of specific geographic area, intended uses and required accuracies.
8. Territorial Sea. A belt of sea adjacent to a coastal State measured seaward from baselines determined in accordance with international law up to a maximum breadth of 12 nautical miles. The coastal State enjoys full sovereignty of water and airspace in the territorial sea.
9. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). An area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, extending up to 200 nautical miles from the baselines determined in accordance with international law. The coastal State enjoys sovereign rights over resource-related matters, and has jurisdiction over artificial islands, marine scientific research, and matters related to protection and preservation of the marine environment in the EEZ.
10. High Seas. The high seas include all parts of the sea that are not included in the EEZ, territorial sea, internal waters, or archipelagic waters of a State.
11. Priority One. - CRITICAL - related to deficiencies which may prevent the performance of a mission or preclude satisfactory mission accomplishment.
12. Priority Two. - IMPORTANT - related to deficiencies which significantly degrade force effectiveness or prevent performance of some portion of an assigned mission. These requirements include support to formal acquisition programs, models and databases identified for applications in tactical decision aids and mission planning systems.